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**MAILED**

**MAY 17 2012**

**OFFICE OF PETITIONS**

In re Patent No. 6,453,806  
Issue Date: September 24, 2002  
Application No. 09/272,417  
Filed: March 19, 1999  
Attorney Docket No.: M-173

ON PETITION

This is a decision in response to a petition, filed March 9, 2012, under 37 CFR 1.378(c) to accept the unintentionally delayed payment of a maintenance fee for the above-identified patent.

The petition is **GRANTED**.

This patent expired on September 24, 2010 for failure to pay the second maintenance fee. Since this petition was submitted within twenty-four months after the six-month grace period provided in 37 CFR 1.362(e), the petition is timely filed under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.378(c).

The petition is not signed by a registered patent attorney or agent of record. However, in accordance with 37 CFR 1.34, the signature of Todd T. Taylor appearing on the correspondence shall constitute a representation to the United States Patent and Trademark Office that he is authorized to represent the particular party on whose behalf he acts. If Mr. Taylor desires to receive correspondence regarding this file, the appropriate power of attorney documents must be submitted. A courtesy copy of this decision is being mailed to the petitioner herein; however, all future correspondence regarding this patent will be directed solely to the above-noted correspondence address of record.

A petition to accept the unintentionally delayed payment of a maintenance fee under 35 U.S.C. 41(c) and 37 CFR 1.378(c) must be accompanied by: (1) a statement that the delay was unintentional; (2) payment of the appropriate maintenance fee, unless previously submitted; and (3) payment of the surcharge set forth in 37 CFR 1.20(i)(2).

It is not apparent whether the person signing the statement of unintentional delay was in a position to have firsthand or direct knowledge of the facts and circumstances of the delay at issue. Nonetheless, such statement is being treated as having been made as the result of a reasonable inquiry into the facts and circumstances of such delay. In the event that such an inquiry has not been made, petitioner must make such an inquiry. If such inquiry results in the discovery that the delay in paying the maintenance fee under 37 CFR 1.378(c) was intentional, petitioner must notify the Office. Receipt is acknowledged of the requisite maintenance fee and surcharge.

In view of the above, the 7 ½ year maintenance fee in this case is hereby accepted and the above-identified patent is reinstated as of the mail date of this decision.

The file is being forwarded to the Files Repository.

Telephone inquiries concerning this matter may be directed to the undersigned at (571) 272-3204.

/SDB/

Sherry D. Brinkley  
Petitions Examiner  
Office of Petitions

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